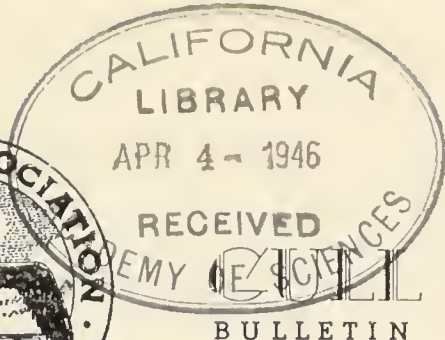


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To Arroyo Mocho and Corral Hollow

To an easterner stationed out here for over a year a series of pictures has formed of the over all bird life of this central California region. Each week continued observations contribute their quota of sketches. Collectively these draw an informative picture of the bird life and the birds to be found together month by month in a variety of habitats.

The following notes of a March 3rd trip may perhaps be of interest as a thumb-nail sketch of birds noted for two different habitats.

The Arroyo Mocho, five miles southeast of Livermore, was the first of two destinations for a Sunday birding trip. Driving down from San Francisco as the guest of Messrs. L. Ph. Bolander and Charles A. Bryant, the Arroyo was reached by noon. The first spot selected for birding was a small grove entirely of sycamores through which a creek meandered. Drawing up along the roadside of this fence-enclosed area the sounds of a noisy assemblage filled the quiet countryside.

Everywhere evidences of nesting birds were apparent. Sparrow Hawks dashed about disturbed from their tree homes. A Lewis Woodpecker heard from afar was discovered atop a dead sycamore limb beside the nesting cavity. Shortly its mate was flushed. From further down the grove three Yellow-Billed Magpies appeared, deserting their bulky tree-top nests for a closer watch on the interlopers: Red-shafted Flickers abounded and within a short time all the inhabitants or transients of the grove had made an appearance. In addition to the above, the following aggregation of birds was noted for this small area at this particular time:

Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Black Phoebe, California Jay, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bi-colored Redwing, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, Green Backed Goldfinch, Brown Towhee.

Leaving the grove the opposite side of the road by which we had entered presented a totally different habitat. An orchard of almond trees in flower was the conspicuous feature backed by abrupt rolling hills. Several flocks of Lark Sparrows numbering twenty to thirty individuals frequented the brushy roadside borderline. Over the orchard trees an inundation of Violet-Green Swallows was noted. Into this scene from the adjacent hills appeared a Golden Eagle. At one point it soared low enough over us to make certain the identification of an adult bird. It was followed shortly after by the Western Redtail presenting a

fine size comparison. Next along the road on the telephone wires a male Phainopepla appeared. For about half an hour it was closely observed going from station to station and back again in a small area lingering awhile in each. A Mocking Bird completed the spectacle of the birds of Arroyo Mocho.

Our next destination was Corral Hollow, some twenty miles southeast of Livermore. In a somewhat wilder country than the Arroyo, its narrow valley hemmed in by high hills and rocky cliff-like outcroppings presented a different picture. Natural caves and crevices bore evidence of the previous years' nesting activities. In close proximity Cliff Swallows, Hawks and Owls had nested. From one such cave a Barn Owl was flushed.

On the hills of Corral Hollow Western and Mountain Bluebirds were seen. In the cottonwoods bordering the creek Nuttall Woodpecker was found associated with Juncos, White-Crowned Sparrows, Flickers, and Ruby-Crowned Kinglets.

This contrast of inland habitats was made still more pointed by the trip to and from the city. In passing lower San Francisco Bay the mud flats were inspected. Where, on February 24th, eight Caspian Terns had been seen at a spot between Redwood City and San Mateo, today perhaps two thousand shorebirds were in view. Seven Hudsonian Curlews were found amidst a gathering of Willets, Godwits, Black-bellied Plovers and Dowitchers. Offshore Western Grebes dotted the waters of the bay as far as the eye could see, often in loose groupings of ten or twelve. Nearer at hand Canvasback, Scaup and Ruddies with an occasional Pintail were continually present.

Short-Eared Owls over the San Mateo marshes completed the sketch of the birds and their habitats for the day. In all about seventy species were seen. Thanks to Mr. Bryant's intimate knowledge of the birds of the region covered, particular trees, certain hillsides and rocky outcroppings known to him yielded the rarer or unusual species.

March 3, 1946

J. GORDON IRVING, *Linnaean Society, New York*

Rare Winter Visitor in Berkeley

The sharp eyes of Howard Jory, fourteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stafford Jory of Berkeley, first noticed among the white-crowned and the golden-crowned sparrows that came to a bounteously supplied feeding shelf one bird somewhat similar to these sparrows but larger and differently marked. This unknown was later observed and definitely identified by Mrs. Joseph Grinnell of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology as a rare visitor, an immature *Zenotrichia querula* or Harris Sparrow in its first winter plumage.

This bird has been visiting the Jory yard almost every day since the beginning of the year. It stays a few seconds each time and appears shy and restless. During the colder weather it came every few hours. Lately it has been visiting the shelf only three or four times a day. A small chicken-yard on the place has also been attracting it with its scattering of chick-feed.

The Jory feeding shelf is about eight feet long and nine inches wide set on the outer railing of a western balcony. It is filled with chick-feed and chunks of bread soaked in water. A large Japanese cherry tree at one end of the tray offers shelter and a protected method of reaching the shelf. Not far from this tree is a small group of cherry-plum trees to which most of the birds first come from the main yard on their way to the shelf.

Besides the many white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows that came to the shelf while three members of our Association observed there also came a few song sparrows, a Fox sparrow, many juncos, a spotted towhee, a purple finch, a tit-mouse, a wren-tit, and a California jay. To the trees near the shelf came a red-shafted flicker and some Audubon warblers.

Once before a Harris sparrow visited the Jory yard. This was in January, 1937. It remained only two weeks.

An article, reprinted from Wilson Bulletin XLI of September, 1929, pp. 129 to 177, named "The Harris Sparrow and the Study of It by Trapping" by Myron H. Swenk and O. A. Stevens, says "The distribution of the Harris Sparrow in the United States, except as more or less of a rarity, is oddly restricted to a narrow area west of the Mississippi River, lying between the meridians of 94 degrees and 100 degrees north of the 28th parallel. It was not until 1900 that the true summer home of the Harris Sparrow was discovered, when Preble found it rather common near Fort Churchill on the western shore of Hudson Bay."

According to Joseph Grinnell's "The Distributional List of the Birds of California", 1944: 518 "it is noted that the Harris Sparrow is a winter visitant and migrates from October to April; relatively rare, but accumulation of records indicates regularity of appearance and likelihood of occurrence in fair numbers."

CLELIA A. PARONI, March 14, 1946

March Field Trip

The March field trip to Mills College Campus and vicinity, on Sunday, the 17th, was attended by 27 members and guests, even though the weather forecast was "Showers." The early morning was sunny but later it became overcast which kept many birds under cover. The wild flowers and budding trees added color and enjoyment to the trip.

The group was conducted under the able leadership of Donald Brock, and the following 25 species were noted:

Pintail Duck	Western Robin	Pine Siskin
Red-tailed Hawk	Hermit Thrush	Spotted Towhee
Sparrow Hawk	Western Bluebird	Brown Towhee
Anna Hummingbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Red-shafted Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	Oregon Junco
California Jay	Audubon Warbler	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Plain Titmouse	Lutescent Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Bush-tit	California Purple Finch	Song Sparrow
	House Finch	

The following 21 members attended: Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Dubois, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Leffler; Mrs. Rose Amable, Mrs. Sadie Bozant, Mrs. E. C. Stowell, Mrs. Olga Weseley; the Misses Jean Fay, Monica Goen, Tillie Papina, Camilla Paroni, Clelia Paroni, Mary Roscoe, Florence Stanton, Marie Sterne, Minnie Young; Messrs. Donald Brock, R. Griswold, Douglas Hurley, Arthur H. Myer. Six guests present were Messrs. D. Beard, Howard Bussett, W. E. Garges, Jr., Tom Hutchinson, Robert Wood, and Miss Ella Nelson.

MARIE STERNE, *Historian*.

